

Your Housing Newsletter



January 2007

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**Hours Of Operation: 0830 – 1630
Monday – Friday**

**Directorate of Public Works
Housing Division**

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**From Your
FRIENDLY ENGINEER**

Pet Waste Collection Is Mandatory By All Post Residents

Many residents on Post have pets that are walked regularly and this is a wonderful thing. The problem is that dogs rely on their owners to clean up after them and this rarely happens. Recent studies have shown that pet waste is a significant contributor to bacterial contamination in the Chesapeake Bay. Stormwater carries litter, pet waste and other pollutants directly into area the moat, Mill Creek or the Chesapeake Bay. Storm drains are designed to carry stormwater only, but ultimately, they carry whatever we leave on the land. Pet wastes seem pretty harmless, but they aren't. Pet wastes degrade water quality by contributing excess nutrients leading to cloudy and green water from accelerated algae/weed growth. This all leads to objectionable odors, dead fish, unusable waters and closed beaches.

To help combat this problem DPW has installed pet waste stations that provide pet walkers with collection bags and disposal space. While there are no designated areas for walking pets, DPW chose six high traffic areas to erect these pet waste stations. These stations will help to encourage pet waste clean up and ease the owner's burden of picking up wastes.

Pet waste station locations:

1. Reeder Circle
2. Greenspace between Ingalls Road and McNair Drive
3. Entrance of Dog Beach at the gate
4. Parade Field
5. Battery Irwin
6. Greenspace across from the PX

DPW appreciates your participation in this effort to prevent pollution and keep Fort Monroe Clean and

Beautiful. Take pride in your Post and help protect Fort Monroe's natural environment. For more information please contact DPW Environmental at 788-2444.

Support Project Pride!



SECURITY

**Keep Your Home
and Family Safe!**

Unfortunately, military housing areas are subject to being burglarized similar to civilian community housing. A burglary occurs every ten seconds according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The problem becomes more severe when both spouses are employed in the daytime, leaving the house relatively unguarded.



An expensive front lock is useless if a window or back door is left unlocked. One in four burglars uses an unlocked window or door entry.

Doors. Common locks may deter the opportunist, but generally not a determined

burglar. A crowbar or lock pick will get a burglar into a locked dwelling. If you decide to replace a common lock, such as key-in-knob, mortise, or interconnected lockset, with a type of security lock, you must have the DPW do the installation. DPW must be aware of the change because the Military Police are authorized to enter your dwelling unit in an emergency.

Windows. Windows are never entirely secure, but most burglars hesitate to smash them because of the noise. To reinforce a locked window, drill through the sashes and lock them together with a strong eyebolt.

Patio Doors. Hardware store carry steel or wooden bars (Charlie Bars) that can be used to keep a sliding patio door in place. An angle iron bracket will keep the stationary door

secure. To install, remove the door's hardware and door and attach a bracket about 2-1/2 feet long with 1-1/2 inch sides to the sill with 3 inch flathead screws. Attach the door to the bracket with a carriage bolt. An eyebolt can also be used to connect the sliding and the stationary door.

More Ways to Protect Your Home...

There are several common sense steps you can take to discourage a burglar:

When You Are Away

- 1) have a neighbor pick up your mail or newspaper
- 2) install a timer that will light your house from dusk to dawn
- 3) have a radio playing
- 4) arrange for someone to mow the grass or shovel the snow
- 5) park a car nearby so the dwelling unit appears occupied



When You Are Home

- 1) report suspicious behavior by strangers to the Military Police
- 2) keep emergency phone numbers handy
- 3) write down the license plate number of a suspiciously strange car
- 4) do not keep items that attract burglar (entertainment or computer equipment) in view from the windows

Record Your Valuables. Photograph your rooms and mark your valuables. It is also a good idea to take a photograph of your valuable jewelry. This will enable you to identify stolen goods and prove they belong to you.

Initiate a Neighborhood Watch Program. City officials believe this is an excellent preventive measure to inform burglars to "leave this area alone!". Publicize the fact that your neighborhood is patrolled by residents, hence protected. Do not depend entirely on the Military Police for patrolling.

Barking Dog. Burglars report to police that they will not enter a house that contains a dog.



GARDEN TIPS & TREE CARE BASICS

Overcome Winter Blahs. Once Christmas is over, your trees are discarded or packed for another year, and your Poinsettias have died. Give new life to your house by forcing bulbs to bloom indoors. "Forcing" – coaxing, actually – is the term used to describe the process that stimulates bulbs to bloom out of season. Among the most commonly forced bulb flowers are daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, and crocuses. If you do not have bulbs from your beds, the required materials-bulbs, potting soil, and pots-can be purchased at local garden stores. Instead of potting soil, you may use one-half inch diameter colorful rocks or marbles to grow your desired bulbs.

When planting the bulbs in soil, make sure the narrow end of the bulb is slightly above (1/8" to 1/4") the surface of your medium. Place your fertilizer in your soil before planting your bulbs.



Keep the soil moist until bulbs begin sprouting, then reduce your watering to once a week. If using gravel or marbles, the pot needs to be solid so water will not leak out other than by evaporation. Bulbs placed in this medium should not exceed 1/4" deep. You do not want the bulbs to rot. Depth is for stability. Only the section of bulb where the roots are germinated should be in the water. Once bulb has established roots and begins to grow, water as necessary to keep roots in water, but not the bulb. Follow manufacturer's recommendations for fertilization. The above indoor gardening steps can be repeated throughout the winter until spring arrives.



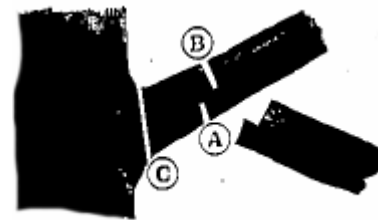
Tree Care Basics. Now that winter has finally sprung and the deciduous (loses its leaves in winter) trees and shrubs have finally become dormant, January and February are time to spruce up your trees and shrubs and to remove any dead limbs. To help you with this task, use the general guide below for proper tree and shrub pruning. In lieu of removing large dead wood or limbs in your trees, please place a Service Order at 788-4228.



Too Close Too much of a stub Just right

Whether pruning live branches or dead wood, it is important to make your cut at the right place on the branch. This enables the tree to set up a

chemical defense barrier and eventually seal the pruning wound. Unless care is taken, a large pruned limb can strip bark below the pruning cut as it falls. This will not happen if you follow these three steps:



A Cut part way through the branch from beneath at a point one or two feet from the trunk.

B Make a second cut on the top of the branch, at a distance of 1/3 to 1/2 the diameter of the limb from the first cut. This should allow the limb to fall from its own weight and be safely removed.

C Complete the job by making a final cut next to the trunk, just outside the branch collar and bark ridge.

Food Waste Disposers Cleaning & Maintenance

Loud noises (other than those during grinding of bones and fruit pits) are usually caused by the accidental entry of a spoon, bottle cap or other similar objects. To correct this

- ✓ turn off the disposer switch and water
- ✓ wait until the cutting disk has stopped turning and investigate
- ✓ remove splash-guard (top rubber part) *and then*
- ✓ remove the object and continue waste disposal.

The disposer will not grind and dispose such items as tin cans, bottle and bottle caps, glass, china, leather, cloth, crockery, rubber, string, clam or oyster shells, or feathers.

Disposer Cleaner/Freshener

A simple solution that works well: pour one (1) cup of vinegar into an ice cube tray. Fill with water and freeze the mixture. Start the disposer and put the ice cubes in the disposer. After grinding action is completed, flush the disposer with cold water.

Never, Never...

put lye or other chemical drain pipe cleaners into the disposer as they will cause serious corrosion of any alloy parts.



SELF-HELP ITEMS FOR TERMINATION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT QUARTERS

The following are few simple self-help items that must be performed by the **resident** in order to satisfactorily clear government housing, prior to your final inspection if you are cleaning the housing yourself **or** prior to the Inventory, Damage, and Self-Help (IDS) inspection if you are utilizing a cleaning team and you will not be present for the final inspection.

Turn in all items borrowed from Self-Help Store (788-2563). Curtain Rods issued by the Self-Help Store must remain in the quarters. The Self-Help Store will provide you with a clearance form to be handed to the Housing Inspector.

Call in **service orders** for any problems which may have occurred since the date of your pre-termination inspection. The Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Customer Service Desk can be reached at 788-4228. Have a list of any service orders you have called in ready to turn in to the Housing Inspector.

Complete yard work around your Quarters. Cut the grass and edge sidewalks. Weed all flower beds, and rematch as required. Trim all bushes.

Call a charity to remove any large bulk items such as furniture or personal appliances you do not plan to take with you. Fort Monroe has no means of disposing of such items, and you cannot leave these items on post.

Replace all burned out **light bulbs** throughout you Quarters.

Replace all ventilation filters (provided by the Self-Help Store).

Clean all filters in your range hood and clean all stove drip pans (replace if necessary - provided by the Self-Help Store).

Remove any shelving paper you have added to shelves, cabinets, closets, or kitchen drawers. (The tacky residue should be removed by the person(s) performing the cleaning).

If you redecorated or made any alterations, additions, or improvements (such as stenciling, wallpaper borders, or repainting walls or areas a different color), you will be required to return your Quarters to **its original conditions**. You can:

- a) Use the technical support and tools from the Self-Help Store
- b) DPW will perform the repairs and you will be charged the cost of the service order, or
- c) Hire a contractor (*The work will conform to the standards and criteria prescribed by DPW*)

Remove all nails from walls, ceiling and woodwork. **Do not fill nail holes.**

Have all house keys ready to turn in to the Housing Inspector. There is a \$20.00 charge for each lost key.

Self-Help Store ~ Hours of Operations**Effective Thru Spring 2007**

Sunday	Closed	Under the new contract the Self-Help personnel will not be allowed to carry or load loaned equipment into your privately owned vehicle. If you have any questions or need clarification on which items are considered self-help, please give us a call at the DPW Family Housing (788-4338) or the Self-Help Store 788-2563.
Monday	0800 - 1600	
Tuesday	0800 - 1300	
Wednesday	0800 - 1600	
Thursday	0800 - 1600	
Friday	0800 - 1600	
Saturday	Closed	



Are you aware that there is a new website that will provide you information on all Army installations?

The Automated Housing Referral Network (AHRN), sponsored by the Department of Defense, assists military members and their families with finding housing in their assigned location. AHRN provides a database of **currently available** rentals housing, ranging from apartments to single family home rentals. Both military members and property managers can advertise/list their rental property in the AHRN system **free** of charge.

For homesales and purchase, AHRN provides services to military members through their strategic alliance partner, MovingStation. This personalized relocation service provider offers trusted, unbiased advocacy for a relocating service member or family, helps take the stress and confusion out of the PCS process and can often provide hard dollar savings on relocation-related expenses.

To register and start your next home search, visit www.ahrn.com today!

*THE HOUSING STAFF**WE ARE HERE
FOR YOU!**Chief, Housing Division***☎: 788-6105***Housing Inspector***☎: 788-4338***Housing Referral/
Mgmt Assistant***☎: 788-2129***Housing Assignments/
Mgmt Assistant***☎: 788-2127***Housing Management
Specialist***☎: 788-4150***~ Feedback ~*

Thank you for taking the time to read this Newsletter. It has been created for you! Please let us know what you think about our efforts to bring you information ~ give us your ideas ~ we want to ensure this Newsletter ("your" Newsletter) is tailored to suit your needs. Please provide comments and/or suggestions to our office by phone at 788-4150 or via email at monroe.housing@us.army.mil